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News Release

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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS DOWN IN JULY

Net new machine tool orders for July fell to $162.85 million according to figures released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. This represents a monthly drop of 19.7% from the June 1987 total of $202.75 million and a yearly drop of 4.2% from the July 1986 total of $170.00 million. Year-to-date machine tool orders are down 17.2% compared to the same period in 1986.

July metal cutting machine tool orders fell to $102.15 million, down 11.1% from the previous month and down 20.7% compared to July a year ago. Metal forming orders for July stood at $60.70 million, a 30.9% drop from June, but up 47.3% when compared to July a year ago.

"At this time of year, a drop in new orders is characteristic of the machine tool industry so it is difficult to interpret this month's data," said James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. "We are hopeful that as we move into fall the improving trend that emerged in the late spring and early summer will continue. With the dollar at a much more realistic level than it has been in many years, American-made machine tools are becoming more competitive in the international market, a fact

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reflected in our improving export orders." He added, "The improved exchange rate improves our competitive stance in the domestic market as well, with foreign manufactured machine tools no longer the bargain they once were. All things considered, we look forward to steady improvement in the coming months."

Machine tool shipments for July stood at $197.80 million, down 15.2% from the $233.15 million posted for the previous month. This figure represents a rise of 4.1% over July 1986. However, year-to-date combined shipment figures are down 16.2% compared to the same period in 1986.

July shipments of metal cutting equipment fell to $136.30 million, a drop of 17.4% for the month, and a drop of 8.6% compared to July 1986. Metal forming shipments for July totaled $61.50 million. This figure represents a 9.6% monthly drop and a 50.2% rise compared to July a year ago.

Machine tool backlogs for July 1987 fell to $1,063.35 million, down from $1,098.30 million for June.

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COMPARISON CHART

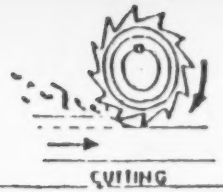
NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
JUL 1987	84.65	17.50	102.15	46.10	14.60	60.70	130.75	32.10	162.85
JUN 1987	98.85	16.10	114.95	78.45	9.35	87.80	177.30	25.45	202.75
% CHANGE									
JUL 1987:JUN 1987	-14.4	+8.7	-11.1	-41.2	+56.1	-30.9	-26.3	+26.1	-19.7
JUL 1986	99.25	29.55	128.80	36.05	5.15	41.20	135.30	34.70	170.00
% CHANGE									
JUL 1987:JUL 1986	-14.7	-40.8	-20.7	+27.9	+183.5	+47.3	-3.4	-7.5	-4.2
YEAR TO DATE 1987	679.80	87.75	767.55	310.75	69.40	380.15	990.55	157.15	1,147.70
YEAR TO DATE 1986	913.15	113.80	1,026.95	328.95	30.45	359.40	1,242.10	144.25	1,386.35
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-25.6	-22.9	-25.3	-5.5	+127.9	+5.8	-20.3	+8.9	-17.2

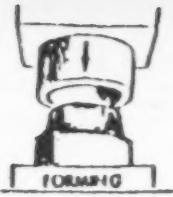
SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
JUL 1987	127.90	8.40	136.30	54.35	7.15	61.50	182.25	15.55	197.80
JUN 1987	148.20	16.90	165.10	54.65	13.40	68.05	202.85	30.30	233.15
% CHANGE									
JUL 1987:JUN 1987	-13.7	-50.3	-17.4	-0.5	-46.6	-9.6	-10.2	-48.7	-15.2
JUL 1986	135.90	13.20	149.10	36.60	4.35	40.95	172.50	17.55	190.05
% CHANGE									
JUL 1987:JUL 1986	-5.9	-36.4	-8.6	+48.5	+64.4	+50.2	+5.7	-11.4	+4.1
YEAR TO DATE 1987	835.30	92.75	928.05	310.60	50.05	360.65	1,145.90	142.80	1,288.70
YEAR TO DATE 1986	987.50	117.90	1,105.40	401.70	31.25	432.95	1,389.20	149.15	1,538.35
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-15.4	-21.3	-16.0	-22.7	+60.2	-16.7	-17.5	-4.3	-16.2

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

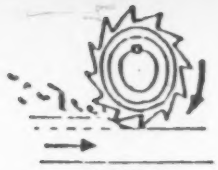


DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,883.35	$ 241.95	$ 2,125.30	1,204.35	$ 2,306.05	$ 272.45	$ 2,578.50
1987							
JAN	$ 118.55	$ 28.10	$ 146.65	1,203.30	$ 135.35	$ 12.35	$ 147.70
FEB	$ 141.45	$ 11.40	$ 152.85	1,209.55	$ 131.45	$ 15.15	$ 146.60
MAR	$ 136.25	$ 27.95	$ 164.20	1,191.25	$ 154.05	$ 28.45	$ 182.50
APR	$ 110.15	$ 20.15	$ 130.30	1,149.20	$ 150.15	$ 22.20	$ 172.35
MAY	$ 176.10	$ 12.00	$ 188.10	1,128.70	$ 189.80	$ 18.80	$ 208.60
JUN	$ 177.30	$ 25.45	$ 202.75	1,098.30	$ 202.85	$ 30.30	$ 233.15
JUL (P)	$ 130.75	$ 32.10	$ 162.85	1,063.35	$ 182.25	$ 15.55	$ 197.80
7 MONTHS	$ 990.55	$ 157.15	$ 1,147.70		$ 1,145.90	$ 142.80	$ 1,288.70

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 2,065.20	$ 257.20	$ 2,322.40	$ 181.85	$ 15.25	$ 197.10
1987						
JAN	$ 124.60	$ 28.20	$ 152.80	$ 6.05	$ .10	$ 6.15
FEB	$ 147.45	$ 13.60	$ 161.05	$ 6.00	$ 2.20	$ 8.20
MAR	$ 165.05	$ 30.05	$ 195.10	$ 28.80	$ 2.10	$ 30.90
APR	$ 119.60	$ 21.05	$ 140.65	$ 9.45	$ .90	$ 10.35
MAY	$ 180.40	$ 12.95	$ 193.35	$ 4.30	$ .95	$ 5.25
JUN	$ 182.05	$ 26.10	$ 208.15	$ 4.75	$ .65	$ 5.40
JUL (P)	$ 143.80	$ 32.20	$ 176.00	$ 13.05	$ .10	$ 13.15
7 MONTHS	$ 1,062.95	$ 164.15	$ 1,227.10	$ 72.40	$ 7.00	$ 79.40

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

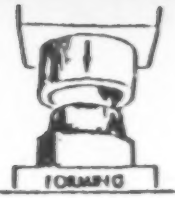
DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,376.55	$ 167.70	$ 1,544.25	897.25	$ 1,684.70	$ 205.60	$ 1,890.30
1987							
JAN	$ 85.65	$ 13.30	$ 98.95	884.95	$ 104.10	$ 7.15	$ 111.25
FEB	$ 98.35	$ 5.35	$ 103.70	889.40	$ 88.80	$ 10.45	$ 99.25
MAR	$ 107.55	$ 15.90	$ 123.45	874.20	$ 118.20	$ 20.45	$ 138.65
APR	$ 65.15	$ 14.40	$ 79.55	837.90	$ 102.10	$ 13.75	$ 115.85
MAY	$ 139.60	$ 5.20	$ 144.80	821.05	$ 146.00	$ 15.65	$ 161.65
JUN	$ 98.85	$ 16.10	$ 114.95	770.90	$ 148.20	$ 16.90	$ 165.10
JUL (P)	$ 84.65	$ 17.50	$ 102.15	736.75	$ 127.90	$ 8.40	$ 136.30
7 MONTHS	$ 679.80	$ 87.75	$ 767.55		$ 835.30	$ 92.75	$ 928.05

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,498.60	$ 176.35	$ 1,674.95	$ 122.05	$ 8.65	$ 130.70
1987						
JAN	$ 90.30	$ 13.35	$ 103.65	$ 4.65	$ .05	$ 4.70
FEB	$ 101.55	$ 7.50	$ 109.05	$ 3.20	$ 2.15	$ 5.35
MAR	$ 114.00	$ 17.95	$ 131.95	$ 6.45	$ 2.05	$ 8.50
APR	$ 73.35	$ 14.75	$ 88.10	$ 8.20	$ .35	$ 8.55
MAY	$ 143.55	$ 5.60	$ 149.15	$ 3.95	$ .40	$ 4.35
JUN	$ 101.65	$ 16.60	$ 118.25	$ 2.80	$ .50	$ 3.30
JUL (P)	$ 96.40	$ 17.55	$ 113.95	$ 11.75	$ .05	$ 11.80
7 MONTHS	$ 720.80	$ 93.30	$ 814.10	$ 41.00	$ 5.55	$ 46.55

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 506.80	$ 74.25	$ 581.05	307.10	$ 621.35	$ 66.85	$ 688.20
1987							
JAN	$ 32.90	$ 14.80	$ 47.70	318.35	$ 31.25	$ 5.20	$ 36.45
FEB	$ 43.10	$ 6.05	$ 49.15	320.15	$ 42.65	$ 4.70	$ 47.35
MAR	$ 28.70	$ 12.05	$ 40.75	317.05	$ 35.85	$ 8.00	$ 43.85
APR	$ 45.00	$ 5.75	$ 50.75	311.30	$ 48.05	$ 8.45	$ 56.50
MAY	$ 36.50	$ 6.80	$ 43.30	307.65	$ 43.80	$ 3.15	$ 46.95
JUN	$ 78.45	$ 9.35	$ 87.80	327.40	$ 54.65	$ 13.40	$ 68.05
JUL (P)	$ 46.10	$ 14.60	$ 60.70	326.60	$ 54.35	$ 7.15	$ 61.50
7 MONTHS	$ 310.75	$ 69.40	$ 380.15		$ 310.60	$ 50.05	$ 360.65

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 566.60	$ 80.85	$ 647.45	$ 59.80	$ 6.60	$ 66.40
1987						
JAN	$ 34.30	$ 14.85	$ 49.15	$ 1.40	$ .05	$ 1.45
FEB	$ 45.90	$ 6.10	$ 52.00	$ 2.80	$ .05	$ 2.85
MAR	$ 51.05	$ 12.10	$ 63.15	$ 22.35	$ .05	$ 22.40
APR	$ 46.25	$ 6.30	$ 52.55	$ 1.25	$ .55	$ 1.80
MAY	$ 36.85	$ 7.35	$ 44.20	$ .35	$ .55	$ .90
JUN	$ 80.40	$ 9.50	$ 89.90	$ 1.95	$ .15	$ 2.10
JUL (P)	$ 47.40	$ 14.65	$ 62.05	$ 1.30	$ .05	$ 1.35
7 MONTHS	$ 342.15	$ 70.85	$ 413.00	$ 31.40	$ 1.45	$ 32.85

P - Preliminary
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